

**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of the  
**Advisory Council for Parental Involvement and Family Engagement**

March 13, 2015

The Advisory Council for Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) held a public meeting on March 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The sites were connected by video conference at the locations below.

**Meeting Locations:**

Department of Education  
9890 South Maryland Pkwy  
Board Room  
Las Vegas, NV 89183

*and*

Department of Education  
700 East Fifth Street  
Board Room  
Carson City, NV 89701

**Members Present:**

Denette Corrales  
Stacie Wilke  
Jennifer Hoy  
Billiejo Hogan  
Rev. Kelcey West

**Members Not Present:**

Jeffrey Hinton  
Nick Smith  
Teresa Benitez-Thompson  
Patricia Farley  
Stavan Corbett

**Department Staff Present:**

Dena Durish, Director, Division of Educator Effectiveness  
Kathleen Galland-Collins, Education Program Professional, Division of Educator Effectiveness  
Becky-Joe Puente, Assistant to the Commission

**Legal Counsel:**

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

**Audience in Attendance:**

Cory Hunt (via telephone)  
Judy Osgood, Nevada Department of Education, Public Information Officer  
Chelli Smith, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program  
Cheryl Davis, Clark County School District, Family and Community Engagement Services  
Eva Melendez, Clark County School District, Family and Community Engagement Services  
Steve Canavero, Nevada Department of Education, Deputy Superintendent, Student Achievement  
D’Lisa Crain, Washoe County School District  
Kirsten Gleissner, Northwest Regional Professional Development Program

**Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Denette Corrales called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. with attendance as reflected above and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was determined quorum requirements were not met, so Deputy Attorney General Ott confirmed that the Council could proceed with the meeting, but that no actions could be taken on agenda items.

**Agenda Item #2 - Public Comment #1**

There were no public comments in the north or south.

**Agenda Item #3 - Approval of Flexible Agenda (*For Possible Action*)**

No action was taken on this item due to absence of quorum.

**Agenda Item #4 Council Budget Updates/Review**

Rose Avila referenced the [FY15 Parent Involvement Advisory Council Budget Estimates](#) handout. She shared that expenses were encumbered projections, and that office supply expenses also include costs associated with mailings. Actual costs will be provided to the Council once they become available. Rose clarified for Chair Corrales the budget year ends June 30. This item was added to the agenda because the available funds remaining need to be expended prior to June 30th.

Rose will be attending a number of upcoming conferences. She referenced [conference handouts](#) and encouraged members of council to attend. Dave Flatt offered one-day tickets to the Las Vegas event which would significantly reduce the fees.

Director Dena Durish clarified that Rose will not be traveling using PIFE Council budget funds. The current balance in the PIFE Council budget has the allowance for some members to travel. Travel would have to occur on the flight prior to the end of the fiscal year. Member Jennifer Hoy stated that after reviewing the provided handout, travel expenditures for Council members between meeting sites would utilize almost all available funds.

**Agenda Item #5 – Approval PIFE Council Meeting Minutes February 5, 2015**

Approvals of the minutes was tabled due to absence of quorum.

**Agenda Item #6 – Nevada Department of Education Updates**

Director Dena Durish shared that SB25 is a Department specific proposed bill that is in the current session. It amends the membership of the PIFE Council adding an additional parent voice. The additional member would increase the membership to eleven members and would help with securing an odd number majority when votin. The language in the proposed bill recommends the additional member would be the current Nevada PTA President or their designee and was recommended following conversations with Senator Debbie Smith, Nevada PTA President-elect David Flatt, and current Nevada PTA President Amy Henderson.

Director Durish pointed out the location on the Department's website where the [Education Initiatives for the New Nevada](#) proposed to Legislature can be found. She also highlighted the link to the [Governor's recommended budget](#). She provided an overview of the content of the site, the Legislative presentations given to date, and Education Budget Materials.

She spoke on the ESEA (Elementary & Secondary Education Act), also referred to as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). It is currently a congressional discussion topic. ESEA is the federal accountability law that requires annual reporting for states in various categories for students, schools, and educators. Nevada is operating under an [ESEA Waiver](#) that allows for flexibility with the Federal Department of Education's requirements. The Nevada Department of Education intends to reapply for a long term renewal of the

waiver for 2015-18. Director Durish encouraged stakeholders input of the renewal process via an online [survey](#) through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

There is a federal requirement as part of NCLB that we must provide an equitable distribution of teachers report. We are currently looking at districts and schools statewide that are underperforming, who have a high minority, low socio-economic status, and non-highly qualified standards according to federal standards and less than one year of experience. Nevada has to devise a plan to be sure that districts are making an effort to equitably distribute their teachers. Currently we are unable to track the number of vacancies. Eventually we will move to an effectiveness rating.

Chairwoman Denette Corrales commented that Teach for America (TFA) places teachers in Las Vegas who are new, coming out of college, going into at risk low socio-economic schools. She likes the solution but would like to know if we are being punished as a state by using TFA to fill vacancies. Director Durish replied that TFA recruits new recent graduates and career changers. They provide a route and intensive and unique training. They receive thousands of cross-country applications for a limited amount of positions. Her understanding is that in Clark County, TFA placement is restricted to only Title I schools, they are assigned late in the recruitment cycle where there are remaining vacancies, and are placed where there are veteran TFA teachers. Research shows that students performed equally, if not better, with TFA candidates.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Nevada Ready! Presentation**

Judy Osgood presented a [brief video](#). The focus of the Nevada Ready! Campaign is on helping educators, parents, and community leaders to understand Nevada's education standards and the assessments aligned with those standards. The Common Core standards were adopted in Nevada in 2010. The Department of Education's focus is on communicating the benefits of putting rigorous standards in the classroom, and the campaign is led by the Department of Education with help from the system of higher education, local school districts, public and private agencies. The Nevada PTA has been a great partner putting the message out. It's important that parents recognize the importance of college readiness. Parents need to understand how to help their children with the new standards and learn how to assist their students at home. They want to help them find resources to help their children. A new website was created to focus on the campaign <http://nevadaready.gov/>. The website was designed for their target audience for example parents, teachers, administrators, community partners, and media. There is an area focused just on the standards alone.

Judy Osgood shared a second [video](#). She stated the best way to get the message out is through the teacher ambassadors because they are able to talk about what the standards look like in the classroom. Some people are focused on the Common Core standards in English and math, but don't realize Common Core does not cover all subjects. The Nevada Academic Content Standards include pre-K standards, career and technical standards, math, English, science, social studies, world language and fine arts. There are important distinctions between standards and curriculum. Curriculum is something that is adopted at the local school district level. We are a local control state which means although we set standards at the state level, the local districts have control over the curriculum and instructional materials. Nevada needs higher standards because there is a skills gap in the Nevada. Only 28% of Nevada adults have an associate's degree or higher. Within that set of adults that have a degree, many of those degreed citizens are not considered ready for college and a career.

Common Core instruction was implemented in classrooms in 2011. It was phased in in the lower grades and this year it has reached the high school students. This year is considered to be the full implementation year. Approximately 45 states have adopted the Common Core standards. Beginning this month, the new summative Criterion Reference Test (CRT) based on the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) will

be administered online for grades 3-8, and are aligned to our new standards. We also have new high school tests which are aligned to what the children are learning in school. The new science standards were adopted by The Board of Education about a year ago. Districts are preparing to begin instructing under the new science standards next fall. With those new standards, there will follow a new generation of assessments. The standards review and update adoption process is done every seven to nine years. The Common Core standards for English and math occurred during the normal cycle of the review process. The next set of standards to be reviewed by the Department and the Board will be social studies.

Member Stacie Wilke asked for clarification on what test is being computerized. Judy pointed out it is the CRT that is required by law and what is administered to students in grades 3-8. One of the advantages is that it addresses writing questions at every grade. SBAC is the new CRT. Member Jennifer Hoy stated it was her understanding that the way SBAC was scored and administered is dramatically different than the CRT. She stated perhaps that the place we need to change is the communication. Her administrator stated that they don't know what the baseline is and this year is sort of an experiment. Judy replied the CRT is what it's called in statute. Where the confusion comes from is that we have adopted a set of questions called the "smarter balanced questions" from the consortium. The administration is different as it will be on the computer and so is the scoring system.

Steve Canavero stated that the Department appreciates questions from the field. Every time the opportunity to interact with teachers presents itself it is beneficial to the Department. The communication we think is clear is not. Specifically related to how hard is the assessment, how many students are going to pass? He stated this is a new way of assessing our students on these standards. Not only a new in the sense of being computer adaptive, a new way in classroom activities to create a baseline of knowledge so students can interact with a portion of the exam called "performance task area", but also in terms of depth and complexity the students will be asked to convey. Cut scores have been established that the State Board adopted. The achievement levels were established based off of the national field testing last spring with 1.2 or 1.4 million students and were recommended by members of the consortia. The recommendation Nevada adopted is slightly different than was suggested because it created a smooth path. The achievement level for proficiency for SBAC is roughly 40%.

Break: 10:40 a.m.

Reconvene: 11:01 a.m.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement**

Rose Avila shared she has been working in conjunction with different school districts to see what they are doing with regards to Family Engagement Programs. Last month she met with Lyon County's Family Director who will be presenting next month. She has also been collaborating with Judy Osgood to cohesively message to parents. She attended a PTA event at Fernley High School, and Rose and Judy have planned PTA events they will be attending in the spring. Rose will be in Las Vegas throughout the next three months and will be attending a week-long event in July at Harvard on Family Engagement.

Rose introduced Corey Hunt who works for the Governor's office and is currently working on his Master's degree in public administration along with other students. Corey and his team were referred to PIFE. His team has compiled information and put it into spreadsheet form for the Council's review and feedback.

Chair Corrales asked members to think broadly about the statute expectations of the Council. The Council is tasked at looking at other states to come up with best practices within our state. What recommendations do we want to make for policy adoption? What would you like to know before making a policy recommendation?

### **Agenda Item #9 – National Landscape of Family Engagement Presentation**

Corey Hunt mentioned that this project is part of a Capstone project for his team's Master's degree. He referred to the [USC Team Project Review](#) handout. The purpose of the project is to examine parent and family engagement practices across the country, do data analysis emerging trends in order to identify best practices and provide potential recommendations for Nevada. He pointed out specific questions they want to answer in their research process taking into consideration the Governor's proposed initiatives. He stated that they wanted to be sure the data collected was useful for the study but also wanted insight from the Council.

In response to Chair Corrales's inquiry, Cory replied the information is being gathered from sources such as the 2010 census and the American fact finders. Cory added there are other demographic data points they are able to extract for example, English Language Learners, and language barriers. Economic analysis for average household income can be done to understand what states are similar to Nevada and which are not. They have estimates with some margins of error but they are statistically reliable. Many formal states do not have statutory requirements as Nevada does, but many states have had programs in place informally. They have contacted the different states to see if their parent groups are meeting. They have looked at the different states' websites to see if they actively engage in parent and family engagement. Effectiveness will look how they are judging the efficacy of their program. They will also provide the link to the latest reports and will review federal reports that have been issued. They want to provide a snap shot of where things are now and provide direction on where to go from there.

Chair Corrales thanked Cory for the preliminary work they have performed thus far. She requested language be provided from each state's policy if one has been adopted. She would like to see if available, the size and districts within the department of education for each state. Ideally she would like a sampling of "exceptional" examples of what it looks like within states that have best practices. She expressed wanting to see how the state would go from the adopted policy stage to reaching families. Cory replied that it was questions they could help ask. "How does a state-wide policy make it down to the teachers and parents at the school level?" They will look at national leaders in this area of work, as well as states that are comparable to Nevada from the student population/demographics standpoint. Chair Corrales would also like to see screen shots or search technology to see how many times family engagement is referenced.

Member Billiejo Hogan spoke with the Health Coalition and they put into place a health service network that informs parents and families of the resources available to them. She asked Cory if he has seen something similar to that in his research so far. Cory stated some states that do not have a formal program in their Department of Education. They are using their Department of Health and Human Services as way to tie in to the education component and bringing in the health and human services component into the family engagement achievement. He shared that would be a great way to welcome them in to let them know of the resources available.

In regard to looking at leaders in this work, Cory shared that for some states, parent and family engagement program information is much easier than others to find. As they are encounter programs that find funding with grants or federal funds, they are also identifying those as well so Nevada may be able do something similar.

Member Jennifer Hoy asked how someone would know that the information is being properly filtered down to a school's website. She asked if Corey has seen something similarly in other states and he replied "No." Cory shared that there may be some specific recommendation that can be made for consistency that comes from the State Board such as "You must have this information readily available on your homepage." Member Hoy asked "How do we do this so it doesn't become one more thing but maintains consistency?" Corey replied that his team will try to identify ways that states are doing it well.

Director Durish said one concern from educators is often about “one more thing” being required, but our state has consciously integrated this work into the teacher and principal framework for evaluation and professional growth. It’s a deep engagement. It talks about the parent’s role and how it affects student achievement. Stacie Wilke shared that each district has a policy of its own. To work backwards may be a way to see if anyone’s policy working better than another. Rose Avila asked if a column could be added that indicates whether states have implemented teacher performance in their teacher evaluations.

Chair Corrales stated that although we are looking outwards at other states for best practices, she would like to see in Cory’s summary Nevada’s best practices to be called out as well. Cory closed by saying the project should be completed the first week of May with the final draft portion of spreadsheet in the done next couple of weeks.

Chair Corrales referenced the current [Parent Involvement Policy](#) and stated that she strongly believes that instead of a Parent “Involvement” Policy, it needs to be a Parent “Engagement” Policy. If it can be spoken in terms of “Family Engagement” the messaging will be more inclusive.

#### **Agenda Item #10 – School District Presentation – Clark County School District Family and Community Engagement Services (FACES)**

Cheryl Davis and Eva Melendez represented FACES, the newest Department in Clark County School District. They referenced their [handout](#) throughout their presentation. The reason the department came to be is because their superintendent felt they needed better communication and collaboration when it came to parent engagement in all 300+ schools. Their mission is in draft form because they are still a new team. They want their parents to be proud of the schools their children attend. They want to ensure they are creating the right environment when working with families.

The pledge of achievement is a strategic plan in Clark County. One of their major projects is the University of Family Learning which was piloted at eight of their Title I parent centers. There are full-time teachers at the Title I centers. They are currently looking at ways to expand that program. The best way to engage the parents is to educate them and give them the opportunity to become advocates for their students. The Family Centers in four high schools have been very successful. Additional Family Opportunities they offer are resources for free opportunities on the weekends with their families to continue learning outside of the school. They do this at community centers through partnerships.

The Parent Engagement Forum is comprised of parents from across the district. There is a representative from each of the sixteen performance zones. Each performance zone has an assistant chief that has about 16 schools beneath them. Clark County School District looking at best practices for professional development of administrators and teachers.

Infinite Campus is their new data system that parents can utilize to see if their students are on track for graduation. They are able to view their student’s attendance, tardiness, grades, and academic planning tools. “CCSD on the Move” is having a bus re-wrapped with mobile technology brought out into the community to include things such as immunizations and awareness about a variety of topics.

Break 12:23 p.m.

Reconvene 1:02 p.m.

#### **Agenda Item #11 – Teacher and Leaders Council (TLC) Overview and Status Update**

Kathleen Galland-Collins shared that TLC was created in 2011 with AB2222 and gave an overview of the [composition of the TLC](#). The role of the Council is to make recommendation to the State Board concerning

the adoption of regulations for establishing a statewide performance evaluation system for teachers and administrators. We are currently in the second year of a validation study being done in all 17 districts which should wrap up in May-June. She referenced [TLC and NEPF handout](#) and provided an overview of the Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF) both in Instructional Leadership Standards and Professional Responsibilities Standards.

Chair Corrales asked if there is any feedback from this implementation from those who thought processes have been changed from the new rating system. Kathleen replied there is no actual feedback as of yet as it is too early to tell, but the trainings that RPDP's are doing are exciting and there are significant conversations about educators changing their practice. There is student perception data that is included with the teacher framework, but there is not parent rating or feedback built into the administrator framework. Chair Corrales asked how the Council could help. Kathleen stated previous PIFE members did help in their work by developing family engagement standards and by attending TLC meetings and shared PTA standards.

Stacie Wilke inquired if the student performance would remain at 50 percent? Kathleen responded that there are possible recommendations in legislation that may reduce that to 40 percent, and that other states have made changes to their student data percentages.

Director Durish said a survey went out to all teachers, principals, assistant principals and deans in Nevada. There are 143 schools that are participating in the validation study, and it is anticipated the report will be completed in June. The TLC Council did hold a special meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> to determine specific recommendations to make to the legislature. SB8 is an existing bill that requested the change from 40 to 50 percent which has not yet been heard. Currently the law points directly to student proficiency data, student growth data, and gap reduction data to make up that 50 percent. The proposal from the TLC was to revisit what makes up the 50 percent and suggested that some would include growth and district level assessments.

Kathleen shared that she is facilitating statewide conversations with "Other Licensed Personnel" that includes librarians, counselors, social workers and speech language pathologists to develop recommendations for their evaluations. Kathleen added this does not include the complexity of teachers/personnel "on special assignment." Dena added that TLC is asking legislature to help define who they want this group to include and/or to allow extra time for TLC to do so. Another item in discussion is about when principals are gathering evidence, what are documents of evidence they are gathering and the narrative being used. Director Durish stated that statute clearly delineates exactly the number of evaluations a teacher must have whether they are probationary or non-probationary, so any changes in that must occur at the legislative level.

The Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) star rating system is based on student achievement scores. Since we there is currently no way to measure growth because we have new assessments, we have asked for a one year hold in our waiver to be held harmless through 2016-17 to allow a period of adjustment that would include the rating and the student outcomes data for teachers and administrators. Kathleen added that the US Department of Education's position on the matter is that there are many states in a similar situation of changing over to new statewide assessments. The data roll over will take some time and the NEPF will take multiple years of data for a teacher/administrator evaluation to have consistent growth data. The Teachers and Leaders Council Chair, Pam Salazar, will be presenting this information to the Board on March 26.



Director Durish provided the Council with an update of recommendations made by the Commission on Professional Standards in Education (COPS), who sets the requirements for teacher licensure. Referring to the [Notice to Act Upon a Regulation 04-08-2015](#) handout, she shared the language recommendations made by COPS regarding the family engagement and parental involvement requirement. There will be a hearing on April 8<sup>th</sup> regarding the proposed language change to [NAC 391.013](#), [NAC 391.030](#), and [NAC 391.045](#). Nevada is one of the few states with a parental engagement and family engagement requirement. A traditional three hour semester course equals to forty five hours of instruction. When [NAC 391.045](#) was passed there was no specificity to the number of hours required for an in service or continuing education course, which produced an unintended consequence. Some districts found a way around by proposing a two-hour family engagement course to their teachers. The Department felt that was not the intent, so is clarifying that the language specifically reference 3-credit coursework.

The reason [NAC 391.013](#) is presented for the Hearing is because of “full state certification” and proposed changes to move it somewhere within licensure that does not prevent NDE from issuing a license in violation of Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The Attorney General and the federal law says that a full state certification cannot include a provisional, temporary, or any other license of that nature. The proposed language change will move the parental involvement and family engagement requirement from [NAC 391.045](#) to [NAC 391.030](#) so that teachers with out of state reciprocity would have three years to meet the requirement and the Department would be in compliance of issuing full state certification licenses. Director Durish commented that all Nevada higher education institutions are now requiring their students to take the three semester hours of parental involvement and family engagement class, so this will primarily impact reciprocity. Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott added that this result is a byproduct when you are ahead of the curve with policy reforms, and that being ahead is good, but has certain logistical problems.

#### **Agenda Item #12 – Future Agenda Items**

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> in Carson City.

Chair Corrales shared there is a lot of work to do and not a lot of time to do it.

- When Cory’s work is done, she would like to see it in draft form
- Updates from Department of Education
- Updates from Legislative session
- PIFE meeting and conference updates from Rose
- Jeff Hinton’s Parent National Engagement update
- PIFE policy recommendation (April)
- Final policy recommendations for State Board (May)
- Washoe County School District (November)
- Lyon County School District (November)

D’Lisa Crain asked that the Washoe presentation be on the agenda when the Council holds their next meeting in Carson City, so persons involved are able to attend.

#### **Agenda Item #13 Public Comment #2**

There was no public comment in the north or south

#### **Agenda Item #14 Meeting Adjournment**

There was no action taken at this meeting due to absence of quorum

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.